

Lexington Herald-Leader

Saturday, April 11, 2009

Former NKU president dies

By Jennifer Hewlett - jhewlett@herald-leader.com

A.D. Albright, considered an elder statesman in Kentucky higher education, has died. He was 96.

Northern Kentucky University announced on its Web site that he died Friday. Mr. Albright was president of that institution from 1976 to 1983.

From about 1938 to 1954, Mr. Albright held several education-related posts in Tennessee, including the position of assistant state commissioner of education.

He left a job at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville in 1954 and headed north to the University of Kentucky, where he worked nearly 20 years in various positions, including those of provost, vice president and interim president. Later came a stint as executive director of the Kentucky Council on Higher Public Education.

NKU says in a news release that during his tenure there, enrollment doubled to more than 10,000, and \$40 million in construction projects were completed.

After leaving NKU, Mr. Albright stayed busy as a consultant for a time. In 1986, Morehead State University's regents asked him to help that school through a crisis. He was MSU's acting president until the next year.

Arnold Dewald Albright was born in the Washington, D.C., area on March 6, 1913. He received a bachelor's degree from Milligan College in Tennessee, a master's degree from the University of Tennessee, and a doctorate in higher education administration from New York University.

He lettered in baseball at DePauw University, which he attended before going to Milligan. He lettered in basketball at Milligan and played semi-professional baseball.

He married Grace Carroll in 1939. The couple had twin sons, Carl Wesley and Earl Thomas Albright.

"The university's early years were full of challenges," James C. Votruba, president of NKU, said in a statement, "and he approached each one with a steadfast commitment to core academic values."

In 1969, Mr. Albright was the first choice for the job as the first president of the school that would become NKU. But he declined the offer because he was committed to spend the 1969-70 academic year in Belgium on a Fulbright fellowship.

Among many successes, Mr. Albright is credited with saving from extinction the Chase College of Law in the early 1980s, amid a push to reduce the number of law schools in Kentucky.

Mr. Albright, who lived in Lexington at his death, also served on the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council from 1987 to 1989.

Survivors include his wife.